prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or other charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures shall be maintained by any member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). However, keeping in view the difficult balance of payments situation, India has been maintaining import restrictions since 1948 under Article XII, and since 1950 under Article XVIII on products including consumer goods.

During the consultations of the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions with India held in December, 1995, many members stated that India's ba!ance-of-payments position was comfortable, that India did not currently face the threat of a serious decline in foreign exchange reserves as set out in Article XVIII and that, therefore, continued recourse to import restrictions for balance-of-payments reasons by India could not be justified. Many members requested India to present a time-table for phasing out these restrictions. In its conclusion, the Committee welcomed India's readiness to resume the consultations in October, 1996 and to notify to the WTO all remaining restrictions maintained for ba-lance-of-payments purposes soon after the announcement of the 1996-97 Export-Import-Policy.

According, a notification regarding the quantitative restrictions was made to the WTO in July, 1996.

The time-table for removal of quantitative restrictions maintained on import of products, including the consumer goods, will be known only after the resumed consultations with India in the WTO Committee on Balance-of-Payments-Re-strictions, which have since been postponed to January, 1997 at the request of the International Monetary Fund which participates in these consultations.

There is no requirement to consult the industry in the removal of Quantitative Restrictions. However, Industry's view on major trade policy issue are made known during interactions at the meetings heid by the Commerce and Industry Ministries from time to time, including at the meetings of the Board of Trade, and these are taken into account while formulating the policies.

गेहूं और चावल की आपूर्ति के संबंध में विभिन्न राज्यों से शिकायतें प्राप्त होना

2396. श्री ईश दत्त यादव:
श्री नागमणि:

(क) क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को गेहूं और चावल की आपूर्ति के संबंध में विभिन्न राज्यों से कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जनवरी, 1996 से अब तक कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ग) किस प्रकार की शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और इस संबंध में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है;

(घ) क्या सरकार गेहूं की आपूर्ति में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने में सफल नहीं हो पायी है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ङ) भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों में खाद्यान्नों की कथित अपर्याप्त उपलब्धता आपूर्ति किए गए खाद्यान्नों की गुणवत्ता, संबंधित राज्यों को खाद्यान्नों का अपर्याप्त संचलन/भेजे जाने, गोदामों के बंद होने और खाद्यान्नों की आपूर्ति में भारतीय खाद्य निगम/राज्य सरकारों के अधिकारियों द्वारा किए गए कथित कदाचार से संबंधित भ्रष्टाचार आदि के बारे में राज्य सरकारों और अन्य से शिकायतें/रिपोर्ट प्राप्त होती है। भारतीय खाद्य निगम से संबंधित शिकायतों की जांच भारतीय खाद्य निगम के परामर्श में की जाती है और उपयुक्त उत्तर भेजे जाते हैं। चूंकि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के क्रियान्वयन का उत्तरदायित्व राज्य सरकार का है इसलिए इसमें हुए भ्रष्टाचार से संबंधित शिकायतें आवश्यक कार्रवाई करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को भेजी जाती है। भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा की गई गेहूं की खुली बिक्री से संबंधित अब तक प्राप्त हुई 7 शिकायतों

की हरियाणा पुलिस द्वारा की गई जांच-पड़ताल के बाद उनके सही पाए जाने पर श्रेणी-1 के एक अधिकारी, श्रेणी-2 के एक अधिकारी श्रेणी-3 के 7 कर्मचारी और श्रेणी-4 के 2 कर्मचारियों के विरूद्ध विभागीय कार्यवाही शुरू की गई है। हरियाणा पुलिस ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम के 6 अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध आपराधिक मामले भी दर्ज किए हैं। अन्य दो मामलों में, श्रेणी-1 के 5 अधिकारियों को विभागीय कार्यवाही के अंतर्गत प्रमुख दंड के लिए चार्जशीट दी गई है। अन्य दो मामलों में श्रेणी-1 के 2 अधिकारियों का स्थानान्तरण किया गया है।

Exports of Iron-Ore by MMTC

2397. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL;
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron-ore exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom by the MMTC during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far as compared to corresponding period of 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the details of the countries (country-wise) to whom iron-ore is being exported at present including on-going negotiations at present to export iron-ore;

(c) whether Government have set any target for more export by MMTC during 1997-2000 (Ninth Plan Period) as compared to Eighth Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details about total quantity of iron ore exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom by MMTC during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96 and for the period April-October' 96 are as under:—

Year	Qty. in lakh tonnes Quantity	Value in (Rs. crores) Value
1993-94	106.06	633.60
1994-95	120.10	660.80
1995-96	111.47	688.90
1996-97 (April-October)	58.20	396.39

(b) Presently, iron ore is being mainly exported to Japan, South Korea, China, Pakistan and UAE by MMTC. During this year MMTC has signed a five year long term agreement with Japan and South Korea for export of various grades of Iron Ore. Another Long term agreement has been signed with Pakistan which is valid upto August 1997. Proposals have also been received by MMTC for entering into long term agreements with China, Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) As per the Government Policy, iron ore surplus to domestic requirements is beign exported. Yearly targets (including the targets for the Ninth Plan Period) are finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Steel and MMTC. MMTC has made efforts to maximise iron ore exports during the Eighth Plan Period. The details regarding year-wise targets during the Eighth Plan period are as under:—

Year	(in
1992-93	738.00
1993-94	667.89
1994-95	584.75
1995-96	688.28
1996-97	724.20

Formation of a Dispute Settlement Panel in respect of Trips

2398. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had to agree to the formation of a dispute settlement panel, with respect to Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights under the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether India was averse or indifferent to the setting up of such a